

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING WHEN A USER HAS CEASED  
INPUTTING DATA**

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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

In a system (200) where a user's input is received by a user interface (201), users are free to use available input modalities in any order and at any time. In order to ensure that all inputs are collected before inferring the user's intent, an 10 multi-modal input fusion (MMIF) module (204) receives the user input and attempts to fill available MMI templates (contained within a database (206)) with the user's input. The MMIF module (204) will wait for further modality inputs if no MMI template is filled. However, if *any* MMI template within the database (206) is filled completely, the MMIF module (204) will generate a semantic 15 representation of the user's input with the current collection of user inputs. Additionally, if after a predetermined time no MMIF template has been filled, the MMIF module (204) will generate a semantic representation of the current user's input and output this representation.

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